



Herb B. Kuhn
President and CEO
P.O. Box 60
Jefferson City, MO 65102

August 19, 2021

The Honorable Mike Parson
Governor of Missouri
Missouri State Capitol
201 West Capitol Avenue, Room 216
Jefferson City, MO 65101-1556

Dear Governor Parson:

The Missouri Hospital Association and its members are truly grateful for your recent action to release \$30 million in Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act funding to support the health care system during the current surge of infections driven by the Delta variant of the SARS-CoV-2 virus. These resources will help to support staffing to care for Missourians affected by the disease and reduce hospitalizations. The need for these actions reminds us the pandemic has not yet ended, and that we must continue to ensure the means are in place for an adequate response.

The existing emergency declaration expires August 31 and with it, the regulatory waivers that have sustained the health care system throughout the pandemic. We believe your office recently approved the reinstatement of certain waivers that previously had been rescinded, in recognition of the current situation. We appreciate that decision and encourage extension of both the emergency declaration and all existing waivers until such time as the current crisis has subsided. These waivers ensure hospitals can continue responding to increasing numbers of COVID-19 patients quickly, efficiently and absent regulatory burden. The state's willingness to provide hospitals and other health care providers the flexibility to address the variety of issues — foreseen and unforeseen — that have arisen during the past 16 months has been critical to the state's success in managing the pandemic.

Should you have questions or wish to discuss our requests in more detail, please do not hesitate to contact Jane Drummond, General Counsel, at jdrummond@mhanet.com or Sarah Willson, Vice President of Clinical and Regulatory Affairs, at swillson@mhanet.com.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Herb B. Kuhn", is written over a horizontal line.

Herb B. Kuhn
President and CEO

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